

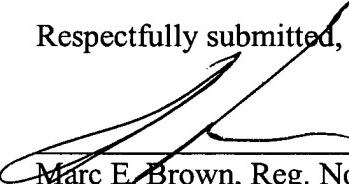
**REMARKS**

In the above-mentioned Final Rejection, Claims 1-80 were rejected as obvious over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of *Masuda et al.*, and claim 81 was allowed. Claims 1-80 are hereabove canceled (and which are being further prosecuted in a separate continuation application filed yesterday). The allowance of claim 81 is acknowledged with appreciation, and it remains in the application as the only pending claim.

Accordingly, this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice of the same is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner disagree for any reason, Applicant would be grateful if he would phone Applicant's attorney to seek to obtain prompt resolution.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to our deposit Account No. 16-2230.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Marc E. Brown, Reg. No. 28,590  
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: January 11, 2001

**Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP**  
2029 Century Park East, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3024  
Telephone: (310) 788-5000 • Fax: (310) 788-5100